

Message Text

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S/S - MR. SEBASTIAN

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TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MASERU IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 293928

NODIS

FOR ARMSTRONG AND SCHAUFLE ONLY

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (MRN 293928 VICE 293728)

FOLLOWING REPEAT GENEVA 9597 SENT ACTION SECSTATE 02 DEC 76

QUOTE S E C R E T GENEVA 9597

NODIS

TO THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FROM REINHARDT

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR RH UK

SUBJ: RHODESIA CONFERENCE : INTER-DELEGATION MEETING ON
THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT

1. I CALLED ON RICHARD THE EVENING OF DEC 1 TO REVIEW
THE RESULTS OF THE 5:00 MEETING WITH THE 5 DELEGATIONS.
THE MEETING, ACCORDING TO RICHARD, WAS EVERY BIT AS
AGGRESSIVE AND DISAPPOINTING AS THE PRESS HAS REPORTED.

2. MUGABE ARRIVED VERY LATE TO THE SESSION. NO SOONER
HAD HE ENTERED THAN VAN DER BYL COMPLAINED ABOUT MUGABE'S
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LATENESS. MUGABE SHOT BACK "IF WE HAVE WAITED 11 YEARS,

HE CAN WAIT 10 MINUTES." VAN DER BYL HOTLY RETORTED
"YOU DON'T DESERVE YOUR INDEPENDENCE UNTIL YOU LEARN
SOME MANNERS." MUGABE REJOINED "I WON'T TAKE THAT KIND
OF NONSENSE FROM A BLOODY FOOL LIKE YOU."

3. RICHARD RESTORED ORDER AND ASKED HENRY STEEL TO
PRESENT BRITISH THINKING ON THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT.
STEEL'S PRESENTATION FOLLOWED THAT GIVEN TO SITHOLE
AND MUZOREWA ON NOVEMBER 30 (GENEVA 9553).

4. NKOMO TOOK THE FLOOR FIRST AND DISCUSSED THE
CHAIRMAN'S NOTE ON THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT PARAGRAPH
BY PARAGRAPH. RICHARD DESCRIBED NKOMO'S PRESENTATION
AS LOGICAL AND SENSIBLE. HE THEN TURNED THE MICROPHONE
OVER TO THE RHODESIANS AND VAN DER BYL PREDICTABLY
RESTATED HIS GOVERNMENT'S VIEW THAT THE FIVE POINTS
REPRESENTED A BINDING CONTRACT. THE MOOD OF THE
CONFERENCE IMMEDIATELY BECAME VENOMOUS AGAIN. THE
PATRIOTIC FRONT SAID THAT AS FAR AS THEY WERE CONCERNED,
THE FIVE POINTS DID NOT EXIST. MARK PARTRIDGE ARGUED
THE NATIONALISTS ARE BEING INCONSISTENT. "IF YOU SAY
THE FIVE POINTS ARE A BASIS FOR DISCUSSION, THEN
LET'S BEGIN BY DISCUSSING THEM." HE WENT ON TO CRITICIZE
THE BRITISH FOR PAYING AFRICAN DELEGATIONS TO LIVE
RICHLY IN GENEVA.

5. WITH SOME DIFFICULTY, RICHARD GOT THE DISCUSSION
BACK ON THE TRACKS. HE DUCKED NKOMO AND MUGABE'S
SUGGESTION THAT THEY DISCUSS THE PATRIOTIC FRONT'S
AGENDA AND THE FRONT DID NOT PURSUE THE POINT. RICHARD
ASKED EACH DELEGATION TO PREPARE DETAILED PAPERS ON
THEIR POSITIONS, NOTING THAT THE PATIOTIC FRONT'S
WRITTEN PRESENTATION WAS SKELETAL. NO SOONER HAD
RICHARD MADE HIS POINT THAN VAN DER BYL INSISTED ON
PASSING OUT SMITH'S SEPT 24 SPEECH AS HIS
DELEGATION'S PAPER. THE FRONT ATTACKED RICHARD
FOR FAILING TO DISTRIBUTE THE SITHOLE AND MUZOREWA
POSITIONS. MUZOREWA JUMPED INTO THE FRAY AND
REMINDS HIS NATIONALIST COLLEAGUES THAT HIS PAPER
HAD BEEN CIRCULATED TWO WEEKS AGO. MUGABE SAID IT HAD
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NOT. NKOMO THEN RECALLED HE HAD SEEN THE MUZOREWA
PAPER.

6. RICHARD SUCCEEDED ONCE AGAIN IN RESTORING ORDER AND
OBTAINED COMMITMENTS FROM THE FRONT AND MUZOREWA TO
PRESENT LONGER PAPERS AT THE DEC 2 MEETING. HE THEN
ADJOURNED THE DISAGREEABLE SESSION.

7. THE PRESS MET MUGABE AT THE DOOR. MUGABE STOPPED AND AS HE BEGAN TO MAKE HIS STATEMENT, VAN DER BYL BUMPED INTO HIM. MUGABE TURNED TO THE PRESS AND REFERRED TO VAN DER BYL AS "THAT BLOODY FOOL." VAN DER BYL FLICKED THE ASH FROM HIS LONG CUBAN CIGAR ON MUGABE'S SHOULDER AND STRODE OFF.

8. RICHARD DINED WITH CHONA THE SAME EVENING AND TELLS US THAT HE RECEIVED A PRESENTATION VERY SIMILAR TO THAT WHICH CHONA GAVE WISNER (GENEVA 9552). HE URGED RICHARD TO BE LESS SUSPICIOUS OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT AND PRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF BRITISH INVOLVEMENT IN THE RHODESIA SETTLEMENT.

9. KAMANA, WHO WAS PRESENT AT THE DINNER, RAISED WITH RICHARD THE POSSIBILITY OF ZIMBABWE REACHING INDEPENDENCE WITHOUT ELECTIONS AND THEREBY ENSURING LONGER WHITE PARTICIPATION IN THE GOVERNMENT. RICHARD DISMISSED KAMANA'S POINT COLDLY SAYING THAT UNDER NO CONDITION WOULD BRITAIN GRANT INDEPENDENCE IF ELECTIONS HAVE NOT BEEN HELD.

10. AS A RESULT OF THE CHONA MEETING, RICHARD PLANS TO CONTACT LONDON AND SUGGEST THAT HIS GOVERNMENT COORDINATE ITS POSITION WITH US. HE CONTINUES TO BELIEVE THAT STRONGLY WORDED LETTERS TO THE FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS ARE REQUIRED. RICHARD SUGGESTED THAT THE AMERICAN CORRESPONDENCE REMIND THE FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS THAT THE IDEA OF A COUNCIL OF STATE WAS DISCUSSED AND COMMUNICATED IN WRITING TO THE PRESIDENTS. IT SHOULD BE RECALLED THAT THE PRESIDENTS HAVE CONVENIENTLY FORGOTTEN THIS FACT AND HAVE GONE OVERBOARD. IF THERE IS TO BE ANY SIGNIFICANT DEGREE OF BRITISH
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INVOLVEMENT AND ANY REASONABLE DEGREE OF POWER SHARING, SOMETHING LIKE THE COUNCIL OF STATE WILL HAVE TO BE RESURRECTED. RICHARD PLANS TO RECOMMEND THAT CALLAGHAN HINT IN HIS LETTERS THAT BRITAIN WOULD BE WILLING TO ACCEPT A GREATER DEGREE OF BRITISH INVOLVEMENT - PERHAPS ALONG THE LINES OF A BRITISH CHAIRMAN FOR A BODY SIMILAR TO THE COUNCIL OF STATE. THE CHAIRMAN, IN RICHARD'S JUDGMENT, WHO COULD BE THE RESIDENT COMMISSIONER, COULD ENJOY TIE BREAKING POWERS. IT MIGHT ALSO BE USEFUL TO REMIND THE PRESIDENTS THAT THE US, BRITAIN AND POSSIBLY SOUTH AFRICA WILL NOT PERMIT A SECOND UDI. CATTO

UNQUOTE ROBINSON

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